

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P045197PCT GRO/jdo	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/NL 03/00506	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 18.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B64D11/04		
<p><b>Applicant</b>  <b>DRIESSEN AEROSPACE GROUP N.V. et al.</b></p>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the opinion
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  27.01.2004	Date of completion of this report  28.07.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer  Calvo de No, R  Telephone No. +31 70 340-3113

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NL 03/00506

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-10 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-15 received on 01.07.2004 with letter of 01.07.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).  
*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-15
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-15
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-15
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

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**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-4 055 317 (GREISS RASHAD S) 25 October 1977 (1977-10-25)  
D2: US-A-2 854 307 (BRIDGES THOMAS K ET AL) 30 September 1958 (1958-09-30)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matters of independent claims 1 and 13, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A modular galley (10) for an aircraft, comprising:  
a wall; and  
a multiplicity of modules (60,62).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known modular galley in that the wall is provided with a multiplicity of guides running in the vertical direction with undercut slots, the multiplicity of modules being provided with runners on the rear that can be accommodated in the slots for coupling the modules by hooking the runners into the slots and the modular galley further comprising lifting means for raising or lowering a said module, the runners of which have been accommodated in said undercut slot over the wall.

The subject-matter of claim 13 differs from the modules in this known modular galley in that the modules are provided, on the rear, with undercut runners, which can be hooked in undercut slots on a wall.

The subject-matters of claims 1 and 13 are therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as that of providing a modular galley that can be easily modified by coupling new modules to the wall and raising or lowering can be readily coupled to the galley and raising and lowering them.

The solution to this problem proposed in claims 1 and 13 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

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Although the use of guides and undercut slots on the wall and runners on the modules has been suggested in D2, in the related domain of modular kitchens, for solving the problem of providing a means of easily adapting the kitchen to different circumstances, the runners in this document are not coupled to the wall by hooking, but by more complicated fixing means during assembly of the kitchen. For this reason, without an inventive step it could not have inspired the skilled person to apply all of the additional features of claims 1 or 13 to the state of the art, as disclosed in D1, in order to solve the above-mentioned problem.

Claims 2-12, 14 and 15 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

Claims

(52)

1. Modular galley for an aircraft or train, comprising:

- a wall (1); and
- 5 • a multiplicity of modules (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

characterised in

that the wall (1) is provided with a multiplicity of guides running in the vertical direction with undercut slots (2);

that the multiplicity of modules (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) is provided with runners (14) on the 10 rear that can be accommodated in the slots (2) for coupling the modules (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) to the wall (1) by hooking the runners (14) into the slots (2); and that the modular galley further comprises lifting means (4, 19) for raising or lowering a said module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), the runners (14) of which have been accommodated in a said undercut slot (2) over the wall (1).

15 2. Modular galley according to Claim 1, wherein the runners (14) are undercut correspondingly to the slots (2).

3. Modular galley according to Claim 2, wherein the slots (2) are widened in places (17) such that a said undercut runner (14) can be inserted here in the horizontal direction so as then to hook into the respective undercut slots (2).

20 4. Modular galley according to Claim 3, wherein the widened sections (17) of the slots (12) are at a height (W + Z) above the floor of the galley such that a module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) placed on the floor in front of the slot (2) concerned completely overlaps the widened section (17).

25 5. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the slots (2), viewed in a horizontal plane, have an essentially T-shaped form, the leg of the T pointing away from the wall (1).

6. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the runners (14) are shaped like a mushroom.

30 7. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the lifting means comprise a spindle (4) that runs vertically in the wall (1) with a lifting arm (19) that projects from the wall (1) and can be moved along the spindle (4) by means of matching internal screw thread.

8. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, comprising locking

means (20, 21, 22) that are provided on the wall (1) and on each module and interact with one another, for fixing a said module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) at a specific height.

9. Modular galley according to Claim 8, wherein the locking means comprise a pin (21) that is provided on the wall (1) or the module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) and can be slid in the horizontal direction as well as a pin seat (20) provided in the module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) or the wall (1), respectively.

10. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the wall (1) and one or more of said modules (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) are provided with connecting means (24, 25, 26, 27, 28) for air, water, data exchange and/or power.

11. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, comprising a number of vertical sections (3) alongside one another, with, per section:

- at least two of said guides with slots (2);
- in the wall, at least one air, water and power connector (29) and optionally at least one data bus; and
- lifting means (20, 21, 19).

12. Modular galley according to one of the preceding claims, further comprising one or more service trolleys (12) placed underneath a said module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11).

13. Module (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) for a modular galley according to one of the preceding claims 1 – 12, the module being provided, on the rear, with undercut runners (14), which can be hooked in an undercut slots (2) on a wall (1).

14. Aircraft provided with a modular galley according to one of Claims 1 - 12.

15. Train provided with a modular galley according to one of Claims 1 – 12.